

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected the independent claims (29, 30, 31) under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gehani (US 5946687). The examiner is urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The independent claims are directed to that aspect of the invention relating to using electronic mail or text messaging communication for updating and synchronizing non-email databases such as personal information databases. Electronic mail and text messaging communication use communication protocols (e.g., SMTP, SMS) that are intended for transferring text messages between computers. The inventors conceived of using such electronic mail or text messaging communication to update or synchronize non-email databases (e.g., personal information and inventory databases) that would customarily be updated using standard network data transfers (e.g., TCP/IP network connections). For example, an update being sent from a server personal information database to a remote personal information database is first sent to a server messaging application, where an electronic mail or text message is formed containing the update; the message is then addressed to a remote messaging application on a remote computer, where the update data is extracted from the message.

The claims have now been amended to clarify that the an "electronic mail or text message" is what delivers update information from a server non-email database to a remote non-email database. Prior to the amendment, the claim simply referred to a "message" that contained the update information.

In making the anticipation rejection, the examiner has undoubtedly read the claims more broadly than applicants intended. Gehani teaches linking a geographic information server to a personal information manager (PIM) application, so that upon clicking a button on the PIM interface, information can be retrieved from the geographic information server and presented in the PIM application. But there is no suggestion in Gehani of using electronic mail or text messaging to retrieve information from the geographic information server. If the examiner was interpreting "message" as broad enough to encompass any type of information transfer between

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servers, then the amendment made herein should clarify that such breadth was not intended, and the examiner should withdraw the rejection.

Accordingly, claims 29, 30, and 31 are in condition for allowance.

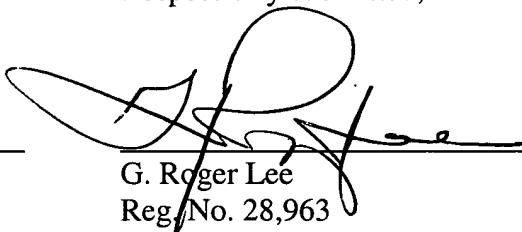
The remaining claims are all properly dependent on one or more of the independent claims, and thus allowable therewith. Each of the dependent claims adds one or more further limitations that enhance patentability, but those limitations are not presently relied upon. For that reason, and not because applicants agree with the examiner, no rebuttal is offered to the examiner's reasons for rejecting the dependent claims.

Allowance of the application is requested.

Enclosed is a \$55 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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